23.	Kerala	79,128
24.	Pondicherry	514
	Total:-	11,00180

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures given by the hon. Minister in regard to the number of Ex-servicemen reveal that he does not possess verified figures. I wonder, in such circumstances as to how the Government would do welfare of Ex-servicemen. Part (a) of my question is whether the Government proposes to take measures in future to make the information in regard to Ex-servicemen available at the time of census so that the cases of those widows who do not get pension are settled. Part (b) of my question is whether the Govt. will consider to give employment in para military forces on priority basis to such Ex-servicemen who have not been able to complete the full term of their service due to unavailable circumstances.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the figure 11 lakh given is the number of pensioners. The number of ex-servicemen is about 43 lakhs as per the statistics collected from the State Governments. We have, from the Defence Ministry, requested information on ex-servicemen to be added, to the questionnaire used during the census. They have done that. We hope that the census figures will be available very shortly and then the exact figure of ex-servicemen will be known to us.

As regard the latter para of the supplementary, I can only say that the request can be considered on merits.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Privatisation of NTC Mills

*817. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal regarding privatisation of some of the textile mills which are at present under the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Common Examination for Recruitment of Probationary Officers in Nationalised Banks.

* 818. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of examinations conducted separately in 1990-91 for recruitment of Probationary Officers in the different nationalised banks;

(b) the expenditure incurred on conducting these examinations;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hold a common examination for recruitment of probationary officers by all the nationalised banks, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to the information received from the ten Banking Service Recruitment Boards, who recruit officers for various

nationalised banks, seven of them had conducted eight examinations for recruitment of officers during the year 1990-91.

(b) Rs. 2.21 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Retirement Benefits to GIC Employees.

* 821. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce pension scheme for the employees of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other retirement benefits being given to the GIC employees at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As the employees of the General Insurance Corporation are entitled to contributory provident fund, it is not considered feasible to give them the benefit of pension scheme also.

(c) The other retirement benefits given to them are—gratuity, provident fund and leave encashment.

Export Target.

* 823. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK:
SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export target fixed for 1991-92 in terms of dollars;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the same;

(c) the export target for agricultural commodities during the above period; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the share of agriculture based industries in the total exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (c) The Ministry is preparing an export target for 1991-92 taking into consideration major changes in world economy, trade reforms announced in the months of July and August 1991, other economic reforms and severe constraints on trade which still persist mainly in terms of import availability and credit restrictions. The target exercise conducted by the Ministry involves intensive dialogue at commodity group/sector-level with various Export Promotion Councils and authorities. The target will be announced as soon as the exercise is over.

(b) and (d) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms in July and August, 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named EXIM Scrips. The basic rate of 30% f.o.b. value at which EXIM Scrips are issued will be an added incentive to the exporters of primary agricultural commodities, as the import intensity of these commodities is quite low. To encourage export of value-added agricultural exports, the trade policy provided for grant of additional EXIM Scrips entitlement of 10 percentage points, taking EXIM Scrips rate to 40% f.o.b. value for certain value-added agricultural products. Central Budget 1991-92 has granted duty concessions on import of slaughter house equipment to encourage export of value-added meat and meat prod-